

February 21, 2012

State Senator Toni N Harp

State Representative Toni Walker

Members of the Appropriations Committee

2,176 days or 52,224 hours, that is how many days/hours the murderer of my sister, Kathy Hardy has been given the opportunity to strike again. That is also the same amount of time that Robert age 16, Emily age 13, and Abby age 11 have been without a goodnight kiss from their mother. On March 7th, 2006 my sister Kathy's life was taken from her, taken from her parents, her children, her siblings and her friends. Kathy never even got to see her 40th birthday.

I have visions of Kathy taking in her last breaths of smoke filled air gasping wondering "Will this be my last breath? Maybe this one." And "God, I hope I see my children again." I think of the fear she must have felt lying on the floor, dying. The fear she felt as she heard the crackle of wood burning around her. Now I fear the person that did this to Kathy will never have to answer for his/her crime.

Milestones have come and gone. Milestones like March 8th, 2006, just one day after Kathy's murder, her youngest Abby lost her 1st tooth, or like on March 26th, 2010 when her oldest Robert made his stage debut in *Once Upon a Mattress* at his middle school, or most recently when her middle child Emily was recognized at the State Capitol for her art work. Every one of these milestones, as wonderful as they are, has sadness attached to it.

Kathy's youngest daughter Abby has a great fear that the person that killed her mother may come back and kill her. Abby has made statements such as "Can some-one reach tall enough to the second floor window and get in my room and kill me?" "If I see someone I'm afraid of, what should I do?" "I am afraid to sleep at night sometimes." These are thoughts of a young child, thoughts no child should have to have, thoughts a grownup should not have. Unfortunately this is the world we live in. Connecticut has the distinction of having 2 cities, New Haven and Hartford, ranked the 18th and 19th in the top 20 most dangerous cities to live in the US. By cutting funds to the Cold Case unit, the state is fostering this problem. In the 12 years that the Cold Case unit was afforded the opportunity to do its job, 40 Case have been solved. Of the 40 cases there have been:

- Two serial killers with three victims each
- Four killers of two victims each
- Two suspected serial killers with ties to seven other homicides
- 23 killers associated with 19 other homicides (some victims had multiple killers)

The above statistics from *Auditors of Public accounts* show us two things, first the unit was a major success and secondly a murderer often kills more than once. If we allow these murderers to wander

free, we will never be safe. Our state will go on being known for the 2 cities with the some of the worst crime rates.

On February 15th, 2012 the Malloy Administration went before the General Assembly's Appropriations Committee to explain that they were adding \$10 million to the state budget for tourism advertising. I would propose that money be spent on cleaning up crime and making our cities safe before we spend an exorbitant amount on tourism advertising.

The direct cost of operating the Cold Case Unit, as reported by the Division of Criminal Justice for the fiscal year ending 2010 was:

	<u>FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30,</u>
Salaries 2010	\$102,196
Facility, Task force and other Expenditures	\$11,398
Total Expenditures	\$113,594

What is a life worth, \$ 100,000 or maybe \$113,594? I would say you cannot put a price on a life. I ask that the committee would see that every life is valuable and worth something, worth being spoken and accountable for. My sister Kathy was a valuable asset to society and deserves answers, her three precious children deserve answers. We as her family plead that this committee restores funds cut by Bill Number 5014 which reduces the Judicial Personnel budget by 3.2 million dollars.

I am an average person, living a middle class life. I am a mother, a wife, I go to church every Sunday, I drive car pool. I am a Nurse working full time. For all intents and purposes, I am an average American. Why do I tell you this? Because just like me, this can happen to your daughter or son, husband or wife, father or mother, brother or sister, or friend. If it does, I pray that there is a unit in place to help bring justice to your family.